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Inventor(s) : Bernard et al

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

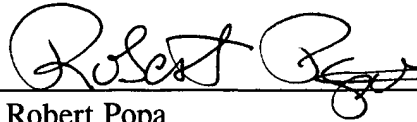
Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted with Disclosure Form PTO-1449 with attached copy of the reference under 37 CFR 1.97(b)(3), filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action. The reference was cited in the Written Opinion mailed by the European Patent Office on August 9, 2000, in connection with International Application No. PCT/US99/24577. The reference disclosed is submitted in compliance with the duty of disclosure as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56. The Examiner is requested to consider and make the reference of official record in the Application.

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The submission of the above-indicated reference is not to be construed as a representation that an exhaustive search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this Application does not exist, or that the reference, either alone or in combination with other references, constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Popa", is written over a horizontal line.

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